TRAVELER'S BRIEFING

SOUTH AFRICA

EPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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BACKGROUND

Full Name: Republic of South Africa

Capital: Pretoria

Population: 43,426,386 (est)

Type of government: Republic

Head of government:Pres Thabo Mbeki

Official language(s) Afrikaans, English, Ndebele, Pedi, Sotho, Swazi, Tsonga, Tswana, Venda, Xhosa, Zulu

Economy: Mixed capitalist

Religions: Christian (68%); Indigenous

TRAVEL

Travel restrictions: None

International Airport: Johannesberg, Cape Town

Flights from Frankfurt: Lufthansa, South African Air

Other methods of arrival: Ship

U.S. Embassy address:877 Pretorius Street, Pretoria.
Tel: 27-12 342-2169 ext 2180; FAX: 27-12-342-6161 email: daopretoria@icon.co.za

Transportation: Public transportation: Good.

Urban Roads/Maintenance: Good.

Rural roads/Maintenance: Poor.

Availability of roadside assistance: Good. Road conditions are generally good. Many drivers travel at very high rates of speed, however, and poor lighting on rural roads and insufficient regulatory control regarding driver licensing and

ENTRY/EXIT

Travel Necessities: For official travel, Request Special Area, Country, and Theater clearances. Report as soon as possible arrivals involved in rescue missions. If inoculations and immunization records are lacking, advise authorities at airport. Official travel requires an Official passport, valid for at least six months, and a visa. The visa must be obtained prior to arrival. Plane-side visas are not available. Visas are normally valid for multiple entries for three months up to one year. Visa application requirements: One photo is required with application (signed). It takes two to eight weeks to obtain Customs, immigration, and quarantine inspection is required. All personnel (even if remaining on airport) must complete immigration form and present to officials.

Duty-free entry for used personal effects: clothes, jewelry, camping and sporting equipment, exposed movie film (personal, not commercial), musical instruments, and in opened containers: toilet articles, part bottles of liquor, and part packages of cigarettes or tobacco, new linens, clothes,

HELPFUL HINTS

Special restrictions: Consult USAIRA regarding exports of local currency, value of personal effects, personal apparel, used household effects, worn personal jewelry, and precious stones exportable to non-sterling areas without permit. Exchange at banks; obtain and keep exchange certificate. Register firearms with police. Photographs of military installations are prohibited. Request lodging at least one week in advance. Provide credit card (Amex, Visa, etc.), card number and card expiration date when requesting booking. Shuttle service from airports to hotels available. There are adequate facilities in all urban centers, game parks and areas most commonly visited by tourists. Travelers may also wish to consider avoiding local commuter and metro trains, especially

USDAO Pretoria operating hours are Mon-Fri, 0800L-1700L. Offices are closed normal US and South African holidays: 6 Apr; 1, 31 May; 10,16 Dec; and 26 Dec.

MONEY

Currency restrictions: There is no limit on imports of any currency. There is no limit of bank notes to Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Swaziland, or Zambia; foreign currency, including Bank of England notes, is limited to l0 pounds sterling. Permit from commercial bank on prescribed form is required for amounts above these limits. Credit card fraud, counterfeit U.S. currency, and various check-cashing scams are frequently reported. Travelers should use all available means to protect credit cards, credit card numbers, and personal identification numbers.

Rate: Approximate: 6.46 rand for $1.

HEALTH

Major threats: diarrhea, respiratory diseases, malaria, accidents, arthropod-borne diseases, schistosomiasis, STDs, and heat injuries (limited).

Availability of medical services: Good. Medical facilities are good in urban areas and in the vicinity of game parks and beaches, but may be limited elsewhere.

Medical Insurance: May not apply in South Africa. Check with your policy advisor to see if you are covered or will be reimbursed.

Status of hospitals: Good.

Health Precautions: Yellow fever vaccination required for all travelers arriving from infected areas or countries in the endemic zones. Malaria is prevalent in portions of the Northern Province, eastern Transvaal and northeastern Kwazulu-natal; visitors should take malaria prophylaxis medicines in addition to precautionary measures.

Immunizations: Hep A (recommended), Hep B (recommended), typhoid, influenza, yellow fever, and Tetanus-diptheria (recommended).

FORCE PROTECTION

Country Clearance: Required for all high-ranking military personnel. You obtain this by going through your S3/G3 section. This must be done at least 30 days ahead of scheduled visit. DV visits will also be coordinated through G3/S3 channels.

Briefings: AT/FP level I brief from command's Level II trainer or equivalent.

Food and water are generally safe, and a wide variety of consumer goods and pharmaceuticals are readily available. In rural areas water should be boiled. Use canned or dried milk. Wash fruits and vegetables. Eat at recommended places in rural areas. Urban eating places are satisfactory. Political violence has significantly decreased in most areas of South Africa since the establishment of a democratically elected government in May 1994. Some public gatherings, however, have provoked violent clashes between political factions, resulting in casualties. The highest incidence of such political violence occurs in the province of Kwazulu/Natal, particularly near Richmond in the Midlands.

CRIME

Criminal Activities: Areas most frequented by tourists, such as major hotels, game parks and beaches, generally have not been affected by political or factional violence. The loss or theft of a U.S. passport should be reported immediately to the local police and the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate. Crime in South Africa is perceived to be a significant threat to the country's overall stability and to the welfare of its citizens. Criminal activity, such as assault and armed robbery, is particularly high in areas surrounding many hotels and public transportation centers, especially in major cities. American citizens should exercise particular caution in these areas. Notwithstanding government anti-crime efforts, crimes such as car jacking, mugging, "smash and grab" attacks on vehicles and other incidents are regularly reported by visitors and resident Americans. Travelers should avoid nighttime travel and use caution when driving in the former independent homelands of Transkei and Ciskei, which have been

South Africa is strict on: Drugs. Penalties for possession, use or trafficking in illegal drugs are strict, and convicted

WEATHER

http://cnn.com/WEATHER/html

Http://www.weatherunderground.com/

CLOTHING

Uniform restrictions: Military personnel are requested to wear civilian clothing on arrival, TDY, and departure. When DV or ranking military members of party are to meet local dignitaries at entry or departure airport or when making official calls on heads of military party, uniform is required. Lightweight clothing is worn during summer (Sep-Mar); wools are recommended for winter (Apr-Aug).

This concludes the TRAVELLER'S BRIEFING for

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